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COTTON

PROGRAM—1959

On December 15, 1958, cotton farmers will vote in a referendum to decide whether marketing quotas—and also some new program choices—will apply to the 1959 crop of upland cotton.

Here's what the vote means:

If at least two-thirds of the votes are "Yes"—

1. Marketing quotas will be in effect for the 1959 upland cotton crop.
2. Each farm operator with an allotment will have an individual choice between two programs:

Choice (A)—He may elect to grow his crop in compliance with his "regular" upland cotton farm allotment, in which case he will be eligible for the full level of price support available for the crop (not less than 80 percent of parity for 1959) ; or

Choice (B)—He may increase his upland cotton acreage by not more than 40 percent over his regular farm allotment and be eligible for price support at a level 15 percent of parity less than the level available under Choice (A).

3. A farmer who exceeds his chosen acreage allotment will be subject to a quota penalty on his "excess" cotton.

If more than one-third of the votes are "No"—

1. No marketing quotas or penalties will be in effect for the 1959 upland cotton crop.
2. Only the "regular" — Choice (A) — acreage allotments will be available.
3. Price support for growers who comply with their "regular" farm allotments will be available at 50 percent of parity.

QUOTA REFERENDUM, DECEMBER 15, 1958

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Acreage allotments will be in effect for the 1959 upland cotton crop whether or not growers approve quotas; however, the *kind* of allotment program available will depend upon the outcome of the vote.

All growers who engaged in the production of upland cotton in 1958 are eligible to vote in the December 15 referendum.

QUOTA—ALLOTMENTS

Upland cotton supplies for 1958-59 are estimated at 20,369,000 running bales. This is 4,379,000 bales above the figure at which the Secretary of Agriculture must proclaim a national marketing quota for the 1959 crop.

The national marketing quota for the 1959 upland cotton crop has been set at 12,167,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight) and the national acreage allotment at 16 million acres. In addition, 310,000 acres are provided by law for minimum farm allotments.

The national acreage allotment for 1959 is divided among States and counties on the basis of the acreage planted to cotton during the 5-year base period 1953-57, with adjustments as provided by law.

FARM ALLOTMENTS, PRICE SUPPORT

All farms on which cotton was planted (or is considered to have been planted) in any of the years 1956, 1957, or 1958 will be eligible for cotton allotments in 1959 as "old cotton farms." Other farms will be considered for allotments as "new cotton farms" if the operator and owner meet certain eligibility requirements and if an application for such consideration is filed with the ASC county office not later than the established closing date.

The minimum farm allotment for 1959 for old cotton farms is the smaller of (a) the farm's 1958 acreage allotment or (b) 10 acres.

Before farmers vote in the December 15 referendum on marketing quotas for the 1959 upland cotton crop, each farm operator will be informed of the Choice (A) and Choice (B) farm allotments applicable to his farm. If quotas are approved, the level of price support for the crop will be determined about January 31, 1959, and soon thereafter each farm operator will be notified of (1) the price support available for the cotton on Choice (A) farms and Choice (B) farms, and (2) the requirement that he must register his choice of either (A) or (B) at the ASC county office not later than March 16, 1959.

If any person operates more than one farm with an upland cotton acreage allotment, he must elect the same choice for all his farms; and, if he does not elect Choice (B), he will be considered as having elected Choice (A).

If marketing quotas are in effect for the 1959 upland cotton crop, cotton from farms where the Choice (A) program has been elected will be eligible for price support through a Commodity Credit Corporation purchase program only. Price support for cotton from farms for which the Choice (B) program has been elected may be made available through loans, purchases, or other operations.

FARM QUOTAS

Under marketing quotas, a farmer may market free of penalty all the upland cotton produced on his farm in 1959 if he does not exceed his chosen farm allotment. Within a time limit, the planted acreage on a farm may be adjusted to the chosen farm allotment.

A farmer who has exceeded his upland cotton farm allotment and who has not adjusted the acreage within the permitted time must pay a penalty on all his "excess" cotton. Generally, the "excess" cotton is the acreage in excess of his chosen allotment multiplied by the farm's normal yield. If the producer

establishes by a specified date that the actual yield is less than the normal yield, the County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee will reduce the amount of cotton subject to the penalty.

The marketing quota penalty will be 50 percent of the cotton parity price as of June 15, 1959.

FARMER'S RIGHT OF APPEAL

Provision is made for a farmer who is dissatisfied with his farm acreage allotment to ask for a review of his case. This procedure is described in detail in the notice each grower receives about his farm allotment.

A separate referendum will be held on December 15, 1958, on marketing quotas for extra long staple cotton (such as American-Egyptian, Sea Island, and Sealand) in counties where this kind of cotton is produced.



For further information, see your County ASC Committee.